

APPROVED: Meeting No. 18-95

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 2A-95

January 10, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on January 10, 1995, at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Pro Tem James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth  
(arrived 6:20 p.m.)

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

ABSENT

James F. Coyle (on travel)

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer and City Clerk Paula Jewell.

Other staff in attendance were Assistant City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, Director of Recreation and Parks Burt Hall, Senior Center Supervisor Judy Beck, and Senior Citizens Social Services Coordinator Lorraine Schack.

Re: Worksession with Rockville  
Seniors, Inc. (RSI) and  
Senior Citizens Commission.

The Mayor and Council met in Worksession with the members of the Rockville Seniors, Inc. to discuss the following:

1. Treasurer Report/Audit - Treasurer Art Sellers reported that the Board's first audit was conducted by a Certified Public Accountant on June 30, 1994; prior to that audits were conducted internally. The Board's total balance as of 12/31/94 was \$69,000.
2. Ways and Means Report - Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee, Helen Roberto, reported on the Board's Fall Festival and raffle drive. While the raffle drive had to compete with senior clubs who also held fund raising efforts at the same time, it was the most successful in the history of Senior Center. Ms. Roberto thanked the Mayor and Council for the City's support in printing the raffle tickets.
3. Memorial Book - The Board is undertaking a project to establish a Memorial Book which would contain the names of those departed senior members and note bequests of monetary gifts to the Senior Center. The cover of the book was hand carved by Commission member Murray Stein.
4. Gift Brochure - This is currently on hold because of three other ongoing projects. Ten-thousand copies of a color brochure containing information about the Senior Center along with a form for persons wishing to make donations will be printed and sent throughout the Country.
5. Phase III Renovations - The actual renovations to the Senior Center will begin in May-June of 1995. The construction, which will have little to no impact on services and programs to seniors, includes renovations of the front restrooms, changes to the East-West corridor, renovation of the center core to seat 100 people, renovations to the library in order

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to create a lounge, and renovations to the health room. The renovations are being funded by RSI, the City, and a grant from the Maryland Office on Aging.

6. Time Capsule - Vice Chair Bob Beller reported that RSI is creating a Time Capsule to be buried at the Senior Center. Residents will be invited to place letters and other mementos in the capsule along with an acknowledgement card to the person designated to receive the memento in the year 2020 when the capsule is opened. Envelopes are being sold at \$3.00 each in order to help offset the costs of a plaque to be placed at the site of the capsule. RSI asked for the City's support in publicizing the Time Capsule and encouraged City departments and personnel to submit items for the capsule. The Time Capsule is scheduled to be buried on May 1, 1995. The Mayor and Council suggested that RSI attend the next General Session to announce the Time Capsule project.

7. Future Board Training Program - RSI asked for the City's suggestions on developing a training video for new RSI members. Councilmember Weisbroth noted that in response to a Mayor and Council initiative, staff was developing a training and orientation program for all boards and commissions. Staff was asked to report back to the Mayor and Council regarding this effort.

8. Opening Prayers at Senior Meetings and Functions - The Mayor and Council asked what the Board's feelings were on this issue. Chairperson Mentzer said the issue was a sensitive one; however, he said he believed that the senior clubs should proceed according to how their members felt. Mayor Pro Tem Marrinan pointed out that there was no policy

on the issue; however, everyone should be sensitive to other points of view and if a situation offended even one person, the group should avoid it.

9. Bingo Activities - The Board has available for review, a 13-page report on daily, weekly and monthly activities.

Re: Request by Citizen to  
rename the Senior Center  
after William Hanna.

The Mayor and Council noted that a suggestion was made by a citizen to rename the Senior Center after former Mayor Bill Hanna. Also noted was correspondence received from the Senior Associates opposing the renaming of the center after any living individual. Chair of RSI Bob Mentzer noted that he had originally broached the idea with Mr. Hanna, who felt honored, but indicated that he did not feel it would be proper. Mr. Stein pointed out that it was also important to keep a name that would be widely recognized and clearly denote what the center is.

The Mayor and Council then continued in Worksession with members of the Rockville Senior Citizens Commission (SCC). Chairperson Stan Sheltra noted the following accomplishments of the Commission for 1994:

1. English Speaking Classes - These have been ongoing for seniors at the Heritage House and Bethany House; the Commission is hoping to be able to include Korean and Chinese tenants in the program.

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2. Bookmobile - Murray Stein reported that the County decided to eliminate a number of stops because of reduced usage. One of the stops to be eliminated was the Congressional Bookmobile stop and this was when SCC became involved in the issue. Mr. Stein was appointed to the Montgomery County Library Bookmobile Advisory Committee, and in July 1994, a petition containing 300 signatures was submitted for restoring service to Congressional. The Committee recommended that the Bookmobile schedule be modified in 1995 to restore the service to accommodate Congressional Tower residents.

3. Pedestrian Crossing at Dawson Avenue and North Washington - The Commission recommended that a longer crossing time be set with a special button that would extend the light for the disabled. The seniors noted that there was also a timing concern at the Monroe Street crossing. Councilmember Weisbroth noted that the City's Master Plan promotes the movement of vehicular traffic, and she suggested that a review might be needed to focus on pedestrian access at primary areas in the City that handle more senior populations. Staff was asked to follow up on the issue.

4. Surplus Food Distributions - The Commission is involved in the collection, bagging and distribution of food at the Senior Center.

5. Photo I.D. Cards - The Commission is making photo identification cards available to Senior Center members. Stan and Jo Sheltra have donated a camera and accessories for producing the identification cards. Arrangements are being made to have the camera equipment available at the City's senior housing complexes to accommodate seniors.

The card will be free for Senior Center members; a small fee will be charged for non-members.

6. Meetings Attended By Commissioners - In order to increase the voting strength of all seniors to influence the County Council in future deliberations regarding funding for senior transportation and other senior programs, Commission members attend and actively participate in a number of organizations involved in senior issues. This participation includes activities of the Montgomery County Senior Citizens, County Council meetings, Suburban Hospital Pre-White House Conference on Aging, Maryland Pre-White House Conference on Aging, and the Montgomery County Commission on Aging. In addition, members Virginia Onley and Marty Roney have met with Grass Roots Organization for Seniors, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Seniors Organized for Change, American Association of Retired Persons, and the RSI Board. Many of the Commission members also volunteer for other agencies.

7. New Projects for 1995 - The Commission noted the following "visions" for 1995:

- (a) Tapping into other programs and services in order to provide in-home assistance for senior residents in need - Councilmember Krasnow suggested that Commission member Virginia Onley contact Rusty Wallace, Chair of the Human Needs and Services Advisory Task Force.

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- (b) National Academic Challenge for Senior Citizens - Commission member Marty Roney is attempting to promote an interest in this contest within the senior clubs. The Commission requested that Senior Center staff be allowed to be involved in the contests which are held on-site at senior centers around the nation.
- (c) Docents and Greeters at City Hall - The Commission members accepted the City's proposal; fourteen volunteers expressed a desire to serve as greeters at City Hall and were waiting to hear what the next step would be. Staff was asked to report back on the status of the program which is scheduled for implementation in January 1995.
- (d) Cable Programs for Seniors - The Commission would like to produce senior programs to be broadcast on cable television. Mayor Pro Tem Marrinan suggested that the Commission talk with Roald Schrack, the City's representative to the Montgomery Community Television Board of Directors. Councilmember Dorsey suggested that some seniors may want to take advantage of cable producer classes which allow students to utilize cable facilities of the County and City.

8. Opening Prayers At Senior Meetings and Functions - Chairperson Sheltra noted that he brought the issue before the different senior club members, and the general feeling was that prayers should be nondenominational. He also said that two senior clubs had

indicated that they would ask to be disassociated from the Senior Citizens Club if a policy of "no prayers" was enforced.

9. Security Concerns - Concerns were noted by seniors who would like to see some type of control placed on businesses that deliver fliers to the doorsteps of residents. Often, when the advertising fliers are not picked up, it creates the appearance that the resident is not at home. The Mayor and Council noted that they could not prohibit the placement of advertisements at residential doorsteps, however, residents can request the companies not to deliver fliers, and the company is supposed to respect the request.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m., to convene again in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on January 23, 1995, or at the call of the Mayor.